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The Frederic R. Halsey Collection Of Prints

THE Frederic R. Halsey collection of prints, including French engravings of the eighteenth century, which is to be sold at auction on December eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth at the Anderson Galleries, New York, is, without doubt, the most interesting and important collection ever thus dispersed in America. Mr. Halsey began the collection of French engravings of the eighteenth century more than thirty years ago. During that time he bought many choice prints from private collections, was represented at all the important public sales in this country and Europe, was the liberal patron of the print-sellers of New York, London, and Paris, and had an international reputation as a discriminating collector with wide knowledge and exquisite taste.

His collection, now forming the third division of the Halsey Print Sale, is not only the largest collection of the kind in this country, but one worthy to rank with the few superlative private collections in Europe, and is remarkable for the fine condition of the prints and the large number of great rarities. Indeed, many engravings now offered are so scarce that they are not to be found in any other American collection.

Baudouin, the master of the *Estampe Galante*, is represented by many rare and superb impressions of engravings of his work, notably *L'Epouse Indiscrète*, *Le Jardinier Galant*, *La Toilette* with the address of Madame Baudouin, *Le Soiree*, and *La Coucher de la Mariée*, an intermediate state between the second and third and a very fine impression of one of the most beautiful of all engravings, with which are associated three of the great artists of the period, for this plate, after a gouache by Baudouin, was etched by Moreau and then finished with the graver by Simonet.

Among the many examples of the work of Bonnet are a marvelous suite of the four prints after Huet and Baudouin—*Le Déjeuné*, *Le Goûter*, *Le Diner*, and *Le Souper*; the beautiful pair, not less celebrated, *L'Amant Ecouté* and *L'Eventail Cassé*, and the charming head of Flora.

Of the colored engravings by Debucourt Mr. Halsey made a collection unsurpassed in the world, except by that of M. Maurice Fenaille of France. Among the many masterpieces are *Les Deux Baisers*, *Le Menuet de la Mariée*, *La Noce au Château*, *Heur et Malheur*, *L'Escalade*, *Le Compliment*, *Annette et Lubin*, *La Rose*, and *La Main*. These and many others are in rare states and marvelous condition.

The great masters, Fragonard, Freudeberg, Eisen, and Huet, are represented by their best pieces, but rare and beautiful as these are, they are surpassed by the marvelous examples of the work of Janinet. Never before in this country have such choice proofs of his engravings been on public exhibition. *L'Aveu Difficile*, *Bacchus Préside la Fête*, *La Bacchante Enyvrée*, *Vénus en Réflexion*, *Vénus Désarmant L'Amour*, *Nina ou la Folle par Amour*, and several others are proofs before all letters. *La Toilette de Vénus* and *L'Indiscretion*, both in the second state, are shown in the most beautiful impressions in existence, and two dainty prints after Fragonard, *L'Amour* and *La Folie*, are among the most highly prized of all color prints.

Charming examples of the work of such masters as Jazet, Lancret, *Le Cœur*, Legrand, Levachez, Moreau, Saint Aubin, Watteau, and Wille are of the highest interest, and the engravings of the works of Lavreince, the master of frivolities who, though a Swede, was the most Parisian painter of his time, will appeal to the most discriminating connoisseur, notably *L'Accident Imprevu* and *La Sentinelle en Defaut*, in colors; *Les Apprets du Ballet*, *La Balancoire Mystérieuse*, *Les Nymphes Scrupuleuses*, and *Le Billet Doux*, proofs before all letters; the two famous prints, *Le Colin Maillard* and *Le Joli Petit Chien*, in superb colored proofs; the two masterpieces, *L'Assemblée au Concert* and *L'Assemblée au Salon*, intermediate states between the second and third, with the titles but before the dedications, and, even rarer than these. *Le Joli Chien* (probably by Legrand), of which only one impression has been sold in thirty years.